

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3997

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBSSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI MOOD ON YOM KIPPUR WAR ANNIVERSARY

1. YOM KIPPUR IS ALWAYS A DAY OF SOLEMN REFLECTION IN ISRAEL. ON THE EVE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1973 YOM KIPPUR WAR, ANY OBSERVER WOULD BE AWARE THAT ISRAELIS ARE LOOKING BACK AT THE ENORMOUS CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THEN WITH A SPECIAL INTROSPECTION AND SOBRIETY. THE EMBASSY'S SENIOR ISRAELI POLITICAL ANALYST PREPARED THE FOLLOWING PIECE WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE USEFUL ASSESSMENT OF WHAT MANY ISRAELIS ARE THINKING.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. MANY ISRAELIS REGARD YOM KIPPUR 1973 AS A WATERSHED IN THEIR LIVES AND THAT OF THE STATE. THE OUTBREAK ON THE HOLIEST DAY OF THE JEWISH CALENDAR GAVE AN ADDED DRAMATIC DIMENSION TO THE EVENT. ON THE EVE OF YOM KIPPUR 1974, ISRAELIS FEEL THAT "THINGS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME".

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3. THE CONCLUSISON MOST ISRAELIS SEEM TO HAVE DRAWN FROM THE WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH ARE THAT BOTH THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE AND ITS INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS MUST "CHANGE THEIR WAY OF LIVING." THE GENERAL FEELING IS THAT BLAME FOR "MISTAKES" AND "SHORTCOMINGS" MUST BE SHARED BY EVERYBODY--LEADERS AND ORIDINARY CITIZENS ALIKE. IT IS THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT ALL MUST REASSESS VALUES AND ADJUST TO A NEW SITUATION.

4. ISRAELIS KEEP ASKING THEMSELVES FIRST, WHETHER THE WAR COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED AND THEN, HAVING FOUGHT THE WAR, WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT A RECOCCURRENCE? ANEW, EVEN VICTORIOUS, WAR CAN NO LONGER BE REGARDED AS A VIABLE SOLUTION, THE INEVITABILITY OF A POLITCAL SOLUTION IS EVIDENT TO MOST ISRAELIS.

5. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1967 ISRAEL SEES HERSELF A SMALL STATE, ALMOST TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON A BIG POWER, HAVING TO FIGHT FOR ITS EXISTENCE, SURROUNDED BY MASSIVE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC FORCES, BY BOYCOTT AND HATRED. DOUBTS REGARDING THE SURVIVAL OF THE STATE ARE SHARED BY AN INCREASING NUMBER OF ISRAELIS. WHILE THE INTERNAL CONSENSUS PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER WAR HELD ISRAEL TO BE A POWR IN THE ME WHICH COULD NOT BE FORCED TO ACT AGAINST ITS WISHES, IT IS WIDELY FELT TODAY THAT "WE ARE JUST A SMALL NATION" AND SMALL NATIONS ARE NOT MASTERS OF THEIR FATE. THE PRE-OCTOBER WAR CONCEPTION THAT THE PREVAILING SITUATION COULD NOT BE ALTERED WITHOUT ISRAELI ACQUIESCENCE NO LONGER EXISTS. MOST PEOPLE HAVE NOW CONCLUDED THAT IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO LIVE IN THE ME WITH SOME DEGREE OF SECURITY, A POLITICAL SOLUTION IS ESSENTIAL. ISRAELIS ARE AWARE THAT CHANGE IS NEEDED AND THE DEMAND FOR IT COLORS THE THINKING OF MANY PEOPLE. IT IS FELT THAT CHANGES MUST TAKE PLACE IN MOST ALL SHERES OF LIFE; IN LEADERSHIP, PERSONAL VALUES, AND NATIONAL BEHAVIOR. WHILE MANY FEEL THAT ISRAEL CAN GO A LONG WAY TOWARD PEACE BY REEVALUATION POLITICAL CONCEPTIONS AND VALUES, OTHERS HOLD THE FATALISTIC VIEW THAT ISRAEL WILL NEVER BE ACCEPTED IN THE ME AND, REMAINING AN OUTSIDER THE COUNTRY MUST DO ITS UTMOST TO STRENGTHEN AND DEFEND ITSELF.

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6. THESE THOUGHTS ARE OF COURSE TRANSLATED INTO CONTENDING POLTICIAL VIEWS. THE MAJORITY, HOWEVER, INCLUDING MOST POLITICAL LEADERS, FEELS THAT WITHOUT CHANGE IN THE STATUS QUO THERE WILL BE A NEW WAR, THAT SUCH A WAR (EVEN IF WON) WILL NOT SOLVE ANYTHING, AND THEREFORE POLITICAL ANSWERS(WITH THE WILL PARTICIAPTION OF ISRAEL) MUST BE SOUGHT. SUCH A POLITICAL APPROACH MUST INEVITABLY INVOLVE ISRAELI CONCESSIONS AND THE RECOGNITION OF A NEW

SITUATION EVOLVING FROM OCTOBER 1973. ON THE OTHER HAND,
AS SIGNIFICANT MINORITY MAINTAINS THAT NO AMOUNT OF ISRAELI
MODERATION OR CONCESSION WILL BRING US CLOSER TO PEACE.
ISRAEL SHOULD THEREFORE MAKE NO SUCH CONCESSIONS, PARTICULARLY
WITH REGARD TO JORDAN AND SYRIA. THIS MINORITY USES
NATIONALIST AND RELIGIOUS ARGUMENTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS CASE.

7. IT IS THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO CAMPS THAT
CHARACTERIZE DISCUSSIONS OF INTERNAL POLITICS IN ISRAELI
HOMES. END QUOTE.
VELIOTES

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